#### IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA SOUTHERN DIVISION

IN RE:	)	
	)	
THE NINETEENTH STREET	)	
INVESTMENTS, INC.	)	CASE NO.: 11-04349-113137
	)	Chapter 7
DEBTOR	)	•

#### **MOTION FOR INSTRUCTIONS AND CLARIFICATION**

Comes now creditor Susan Green, individually and as Next Friend of Jennifer Vickery, and files this Motion for Instructions and Clarification of the Court's July 13, 2012 Order granting relief from stay in the in the above-entitled Chapter 7 proceedings. As grounds, Movant shows as follows:

- 1. On or about May 31, 2012, Movant filed a "Motion for Relief from Automatic Stay" in this proceeding regarding Debtor The Nineteenth Street Investments, Inc. ("Nineteenth Street"). Movant's motion is attached hereto as Exhibit "A". The Motion sought leave to proceed in a State Court dram shop action against debtor.
- 2. Nineteenth Street is a co-defendant in the State Court dram shop action along with Sabbah Brothers Enterprises, Inc. ("SBE") and Ibrahim Sabbah ("Sabbah").<sup>1</sup>
- 3. Neither SBE nor Sabbah have filed for Bankruptcy Court protection, and neither has sought the protection of the automatic stay entered in the Bankruptcy Court.
- 4. On October 27, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court granted the Motion. The Order granted the Motion "with any recovery limited to being against this Bankruptcy Estate." See Order attached as Exhibit "B". Movant understood the Court's Order to restrict any attempt to collect a judgment against the debtor to the Bankruptcy Court's jurisdiction, but to allow collection from any non-debtor co-defendants in the State Court action.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Sabbah is the sole shareholder, officer, and director of both SBE and debtor Nineteenth Street.

- 5. Movant's State Court claims against SBE and Sabbah are "alter ego" or "pierce the corporate veil" claims. In essence, plaintiffs have alleged that Sabbah and SBE are equally responsible for the torts of the debtor. The State trial court had previously determined that it would try the underlying tort issues against defendant/debtor Nineteenth Street and - after entry of any judgment - determine in a separate non-jury proceeding whether the alter ego codefendants would also be liable.<sup>2</sup>
- 6. In February 2013, the State Court jury returned a verdict totaling \$3.9 million on behalf of Movant and against defendant Nineteenth Street. On information and belief, the codefendants have assets and or liquor liability insurance coverage which may partially satisfy the judgment.
- 7. Thereafter, the State trial court scheduled a non-jury proceeding with respect to the equitable "alter ego" claims against SBE and Sabbah. Said hearing was scheduled to begin May 29, 2013.
- 8. On or about April 8, 2013, debtor filed a "Motion to Dismiss" the State Court action. As part of that motion, the debtor alleges that any alter ego claims are property of the estate and that pursuit of any such claims against the co-defendants must be prosecuted under the jurisdiction of Bankruptcy Court.
- 9. The State trial court has stayed the action pending a ruling or instruction from the Bankruptcy Court as to whether the alter ego claims are, in fact, an asset of the estate or whether they may be pursued independently in the State Court. See Order attached as Exhibit "C".

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This Court was advised of the State Court's anticipated procedure in Movant's initial Motion for Relief from Automatic Stacy. See Exhibit A, ¶4.

WHEREFORE, Premises Considered, Movant seeks clarification and instruction from the Bankruptcy Court as to:

- The extent to which Movant may prosecute claims against SBE and Sabbah outside of the (a) Bankruptcy Court;
- Whether the alter ego claims are considered to be an asset of the bankrupt estate of the (b) debtor The Nineteenth Street Investments, Inc.;
- Whether alter ego claims against SBE and Sabbah must be pursued within the jurisdiction of (c) the Bankruptcy Court; or
- Whether alter ego claims against SBE and Sabbah may be pursued in the State Court action. (d)

RALPH BOHANAN, JR. (BOH-002)

Attorney for Movant Susan Green

#### OF COUNSEL:

BOHANAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C. One Perimeter Park South Suite 315 South Birmingham, Alabama 35243 Phone: (205) 977-2200

Facsimile:

(205) 977-2555

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

5349

I do hereby certify that on the day of May, 2013, a true and correct copy of the foregoing pleading was served on all counsel of record via electronic filing or by placing a copy of same in the United States Mail, First Class Postage Prepaid, to:

BRITTANY CAFFEE Edward D. Tumlin, Esq. P.O. Box 36683 Birmingham, AL 35236

Ralph D. Gaines, III, Esq. GAINES, WOLTER & KINNEY, P.C. 3500 Blue Lake Drive, Suite 425 Birmingham, AL 35243

Kori L. Clement, Esq. Hare, Clement & Duck, P.C. 505 North 20<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 1010, Financial Center Birmingham, AL 35203

Staci Cornelius, Esq. Haskell, Slaughter, Young & rediker, LLC 1400 Park Place Tower 2001 Park Place North Birmingham, AL 35203

Patrick M. Lavette, Esq. Davenport, Lavette & Cleckler, P.C. P.O. Box 360186 Birmingham, AL 35236

Curtis Gordon, Esq. Gordon & Latham 2105 Third Avenue North Birmingham, AL 35203

Don McKenna, Esq. Hare, Wynn, Newell & Newton The Massey Building 20258 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North Birmingham, AL 35203

The Nineteenth Street Investments, Inc. c/o Andrew N. Laplante, Esq. 1604 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North Bessemer, AL 35020

Andre' M. Toffel, Esq. Andre' M. Toffel, PC 1929 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North, Suite 4 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Farley Building Birmingham, AL 35203

OF COUNSEL

#### IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA SOUTHERN DIVISION

IN RE:	)
	)
THE NINETEENTH STREET	) s
INVESTMENTS, INC.	) CASE NO.: 11-04849-113137
·	) Chapter 7
DEBTOR	) ·

#### MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY

Comes now creditor Susan Green, individually and as Next Friend of Jennifer Vickery, and files this Motion for Relief from Automatic Stay in the above-entitled Chapter 7 proceeding. As grounds, movant shows as follows:

1. Debtor, The Nineteenth Street Investments, Inc., is a Defendant in three pending state court wrongful death and personal injury actions. Movant Susan Green is the named Plaintiff in one such proceeding. The cases are "Dram Shop" cases arising out of wrongful death and personal injuries suffered in a motor vehicle accident that occurred following the debtor's alleged illegal sale of alcoholic beverages to an under-age driver. Susan Green's minor child was injured along with another passenger. One passenger was killed in the accident. The cases are:

Sharon Robertson, individually and as personal representative of the Estate of Timothy Andrew Robertson v. Brittany Caffee, et al.

In the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, Bessemer Division, Alabama
CV-2007-000633-ERV

Susan Green, et al. v. Brittany Caffee, et al.

In the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, Bessemer Division, Alabama
CV-2007-000783-ERV

Tisha Owens and Bobby Waldrop, as parents and next friend of Michael Waldrop, a minor v. Brittany Caffee. et al.

In the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, Bessemer Division, Alabama
CY-2007-0 00797

The facts and circumstances of Movant's case are set out in the Fact Summary attached as Exhibit A.

2. The cases have been pending since 2007 and were consolidated for discovery and trial. The trial of the actions was scheduled to begin September 19, 2011, before the Honorable Eugene Verin. The Petition herein was filed September 9, 2011.

- 3. Co-defendants in the pending state court cases are: The Nineteenth Street Investments, Inc. (debtor); Ibrahim Sabbah (identified in the bankruptcy petition hereunder as the sole shareholder, officer and director of debtor); and Sabbah Brothers Enterprises, Inc. (Ibrahim Sabbah is also the sole shareholder, officer and director of Sabbah Brothers Enterprises, Inc.).
- 4. Plaintiffs have alleged in the state court action that Ibrabim Sabbah and Sabbah Brothers Enterprises, Inc. are alter-egos of debtor, The Nineteenth Street Investments, Inc. and are equally responsible for the torts of debtor. The State trial court determined, in its Order of March 24, 2011, that it would try the underlying tort issues against Defendant, The Nineteenth Street Investments, Inc., and, after entry of any judgment, determine whether the alter-ego co-defendants are also Liable.
- 5. Debtor has maintained that it has no insurance coverage for any liquor liability claims made by the Plaintiffs in the underlying action. Upon information and belief, however, a Nationwide liquor liability policy was issued to Co-Defendant Sabbah Brothers Enterprises, inc., insuring the premises operated by debtor.
- 6. Debtor lists as assets a contingent claim described as "Right to sue insurance agent for messing up the name on the insurance liability policy." (See line item 21, Schedule B of the Petition filed herein). Debtor also lists "other business insurance policies" as an asset (See line 35, Schedule B). It is presumed that this refers to potential claims under the Nationwide liquor liability policy insuring Sabbah Brothers Enterprises, Inc.
- 7. Plaintiff believes that potential breach of contract and/or bad faith claims against Nationwide might be additional assets for debtor.
- 8. The value of the claims in the underlying state court law suits cannot be Determined until a judgment is rendered.
- 9. The state circuit court has been involved in litigation of this action since 2007. That Court is most familiar with the issues and the parties involved, and is the forum best suited to resolve the disputes. Since this Bankruptcy Court has no jurisdiction to try wrongful death or personal injury claims, the state circuit court is the best forum for resolution of these issues.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiff prays that this Court provide relief from the automatic stay entered hereunder and allow the trial to go forward for the purpose of fixing the debtor's contingent liabilities in these underlying cases.

RALPH BOHANAN, JR. (BOH-002)

Attorney for Movant Susan Green

#### OF COUNSEL:

BOHANAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C. One Perimeter Park South Suite 315 South Birmingham, Alabama 35243 Phone: (205) 977-2200 Facsimile: (205) 977-2555

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2012, a true and correct copy of the foregoing pleading was served on all counsel of record via electronic filing or by placing a copy of same in the United States Mail, First Class Postage Prepaid, to:

BRITTANY CAFFEE Edward D. Tumlin, Esq. P.O. Box 36683 Birmingham, AL 35236

Ralph D. Gaines, III, Esq. GAINES, WOLTER & KINNEY, P.C. 3500 Blue Lake Drive, Suite 425 Birmingham, AL 35243

Kori L. Clement, Esq. Hare, Clement & Duck, P.C. 505 North 20<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 1010, Financial Center Birmingham, AL 35203

Staci Cornelius, Esq. Haskell, Slaughter, Young & rediker, LLC 1400 Park Place Tower 2001 Park Place North Birmingham, AL 35203

Patrick M. Lavette, Esq. Davenport, Lavette & Cleckler, P.C. P.O. Box 360186 Birmingham, AL 35236

Curtis Gordon, Esq. Gordon & Latham 2105 Third Avenue North Birmingham, AL 35203 Don McKenna, Esq. Hare, Wynn, Newell & Newton The Massey Building 20258 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North Birmingham, AL 35203

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Andre' M. Toffel, Esq. Andre' M. Toffel, PC 1929 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North, Suite 4 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Farley Building Birmingham, AL 35203

OF COUNSEL

#### IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA SOUTHERN DIVISION

IN RE:	)	
THE NINETEENTH STREET INVESTMENTS, INC.	) ) )	CASE NO.: 11-04349-113137
DEBTOR	)	Chapter 7

# FACT SUMMARY FOR MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY

Date and Type of Claim: Personal injury and dram shop claims on behalf of Susan Green,

individually and as Next Friend of Jennifer Vickery, arising out of May 2, 2007 automobile accident pending in Susan Green, et al. v. Brittany Caffee, et al., Civil Action No.: CV-07-783, Circuit Court of Jefferson County/Bessemer Division, Alabama. Case filed pre-

petition on May 11, 2007.

Liability Insurance: None. A co-defendant in the State Court action, Sabbah Brothers

Enterprises, Inc., has a policy with Nationwide. It is believed that the Nineteenth Street Investments, Inc. may have a claim for coverage under this policy, as well as potential errors and omissions claims

against Nationwide's agent.

State Court Trial Counsel for The Nineteenth Street

Investments, Inc.:

Kori Clement, Esq.

HARE, CLEMENT & DUCK, P.C.

505 20th Street North 1010 Financial Center Birmingham, AL 35203

Value of Personal

Injury Claim:

The claim is an un-liquidated personal injury claim.

Prior Stay Order(s)

Involving Movant:

There are no prior stay orders involving Movant in this or any other

case.

RALPH BOHANAN, JR. (BOH-002)

Attorney for Movant Susan Green

## OF COUNSEL:

BOHANAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C. One Perimeter Park South Suite 315 South Birmingham, Alabama 35243 Phone: (205) 977-2200

Facsimile:

(205) 977-2555

#### UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA - SOUTHERN DIVISION

In the Matter of:	
The Nineteenth Street Investments, Inc.	} Case No: 11-04549-TBB7
	}
DEBTOR(S).	}
	}
	}

This matter came before the Court on Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:30 AM, for a hearing on the following:

**ORDER** 

- 1) RE: Doc #45; Motion for Relief from Stay filed by Ralph Bohanan, Jr., Attorney for Susan Green
- 2) RE: Doc #54; Debtor's Opposition to the Motion for Relief from Stay filed by Kori L. Clement

Proper notice of the hearing was given and appearances were made by the following:

Andrew N Laplante, attorney for Debtor

Ralph Bohanan, Jr., attorney for Susan Green

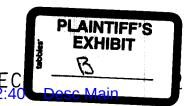
Stephanie Schmidt for Kori L. Clement, attorney for the Debtor

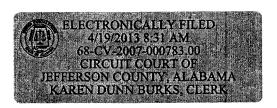
#### It is therefore ORDERED ADJUDGED and DECREED that:

Based on the arguments of counsel and the pleadings, the Debtor's Opposition is OVERRULED and the Motion for Relief from Stay filed by Susan Green is GRANTED, with any recovery limited to being against this Bankruptcy Estate.

Dated: 07/13/2012

/s/ BENJAMIN COHEN
BENJAMIN COHEN
United States Bankruptcy Judge





# IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA BESSEMER DIVISION

GREEN SUSAN, AS MOTHER AND	)	
NEXT FRIEND OF,		
VICKERY JENNIFER,	)	
GREEN SUSAN,	)	
Plaintiffs,	)	
.,	)	
V.	) Case No.:	CV-2007-000783.00
CAFFEE BRITTANY,	)	
GARNER KATHLEEN,	)	
CUSHION AMANDA,	)	
SHABBAH BROTHERS	)	
ENTERPRISES, INC. ET AL,	·	
Defendants.	)	

### ORDER SETTING 3 P.M. JUNE 11, 2013 STATUS CONFERENCE

Both this morning's 11 a.m. hearing and the May 29/30, 2013 trial setting are cancelled and this matter is set for status conference as indicated above, as the Court grants the relief requested by Sharon Robertson and stays this cause until clarification from the Bankruptcy Court is obtained.

DONE this 19th day of April, 2013.

/s/ HON. EUGENE R. VERIN

**CIRCUIT JUDGE** 

